

## HADLEIGH.

In the third volume of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology there appeared an exhaustive paper, written by the Rev. H. Pigott, Curate of Hadleigh, on "Hadleigh and its Great Men"; to this paper were added two valuable appendixes. One of these, "The Extent of the Manor of Hadleigh," throws so great a light upon the condition of the town and its people in the days of the early Plantagenets, that the excellent and careful translation which was made by the late Lord John Hervey, will be read with interest by all who desire to become further acquainted with the history of this centre of cloth manufacture. The paper above quoted dwells more particularly upon the History of Hadleigh Hall Manor and its Church. The following notes are added in order to render assistance to solve the "Town Mysteries" touching the origin of such remarkable features as the Guildhall, the Place Farm, and the Castle.

The antiquity of the town is so remote that at the commencement of its history we plunge into mist. Guthrum is asserted to have established his court upon this site, and to have found here a last resting place. Within the Danish territory there were other Hadleighs; it is scarcely probable therefore that the word "Hadleigh" means *chief place*, because it was the home of Guthrum, nor can it be a compound of *Had* and *lagh*, as suggested by Mr. Piggott. In the neighbourhood the Danish "thorp," "toft," and "by" are unknown, but the Saxon test words, "ham," "ford," "field," "ton" and "Hirst" abound in Corham, Corsford, Lafham, Toppesfield, Bentone, the Herst. These all lie within the bounds of the parish of Hadleigh. It is difficult to believe that every trace of Danish settlement could have been utterly obliterated. It is more probable that the derivation of

the word is to be obtained from the clue given in the Extent itself :—

“The judicial gallows of the said manor ought to stand at the *Hirst* in a certain place called *Hudleghe*.” p. 166.

The “Herst,” or mound, which overlooked the chief place of assembly for the town is marked on the Ordnance Survey Map as “Gallows Hill.” An inhabitant dwelling near the spot bore the significant name of *Richard at Leigh*.\*

The narrative of how the Saxons, by the bravery and diplomacy of their kings, regained the lost territory of the Danelaw, occupies more than one chapter in the history of our country; the new rulers of the Saxon Ealdomanries were *jarls* or Earls. Towards the close of the tenth century, Brithnoth was Earl of Essex, and Æthelwine, Earl of East Anglia. These chieftains supported the cause of the monks, with a view to the overthrow of Dunstan. What were the boundaries of Essex and East Anglia is uncertain. When Brithnoth marched forth to the battle of Maldon, in which he and all his bodyguard were slain by the Danes, A.D. 991, he made a grant of lands at Lalyng in Essex, and at Illeghe and Hadleigh in Suffolk to the monks of Canterbury. (Report of His. Manuscripts Commission, 1881, part 1, p. 322b.) Dugdale, in an early edition of his *Monasticon*, states that the lands at Hadleigh were granted in A.D. 835 by Ethelfleda, and in A.D. 941 by Brithnoth. He gives, however, Siricius, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in 991, as a witness to the grant. These statements cannot be reconciled with the former. Hadleigh, we are told, was held by Ethelfleda, the widow of Brithnoth, during her life. Only part of the town became the possession of the monks, for several manors as those of Lafham, Cosford, Toppesfield, had other lords at the time of the Domesday Survey.

In the days of William I. Hadleigh was divided into various manors; the one which presents the greatest difficulty is that of Lafham, or as the name appears in

\*Demise by Simon le Longe and Alice Payn his wife late wife of Richard de Penshurst to *Richard ate Leigh* of Hadleghe, &c. Ancient Deed B. 2891, Record Office.



Old Gateway.  
the Place farm.  
Hadleigh.

John S. Corder July 1902.

Domesday, Latham.\* The land of this manor has been erroneously considered to have formed part of Leyham, but we find in an Inquisition held 16 Edward II. (1323), "One William de Lafham of manor of Plessis, Hadleigh, Suffolk, was seized of one Messuage, 70 acres of land, and 15 acres of woodland. His heir was John de Lafham, aged 30 years." Again in the Suffolk Feet of Fines, 1 John, "Robert son of Gerard v. Matilda de Aldham with Nicholas her. son in *Lafham*."

24 Hen. III. "Hugh son of Alexander and William his brother, v. Thomas de la Pond in *Lafham*."

One of the principal landowners of Hadleigh mentioned in the Extent of 1305, is John de Lafham, whose name is of frequent occurrence. Plessis Manor, or Plesssets Manor, that is Place or Plaize Manor, was subsequently known as Lafham Manor, and finally as Pond Hall Manor. It may be possible that the words *Place Farm* retain the early name of the manor, for it must be borne in mind that Plessete was the Latinized form of "*Place*." It is well, however, to consider that in the neighbourhood there are many dwellings known under the name "*Place Farm*," from the names of former occupiers or owners. No other instance has come to my notice of the name Place in connection with the inhabitants or dwellings of Hadleigh. The fine brick gateway which stands immediately upon Lady Lane was erected towards the close of the fifteenth century, when by marriage the manor of Pond Hall formed part of the estates of Edward Doyle of Staffordshire. The history of Pond Hall Manor is not definitely known, but in the early part of the 14th century it was held by Sir William Giffard, afterwards by his only daughter and heir, Cicely, the wife of Richard Kyslinbury, junior, of London, who had acquired Toppesfield Hall by purchase, in 1352, of Sir John Gernoun and Joan his wife. The Pond Hall Estate was sold to Helmyng Legate of Essex, Constable of Windsor Castle, who obtained per-

\*Sampson's Register, 1185:—Hadleigh, Lafham, and Benton are one Leet, Hadleigh is a half, Lafham a third, and Benton a sixth.



de Turze and his fellows, Justices itinerant at Catteshall, Suffolk, in 1269. Ten years later the market was granted by Sir Philip Basset to Lady Lora de Ros for her life, with remainders to Sir Robert Kokerell and Joan, his wife, daughter and heiress of the said Lora, who during her life disposed of the manor to John de Kirkby of Horton, and Margaret, his wife. This transaction was the cause of a long suit between John de Kirkby and Cicely, late wife of Sir William Kokerell. The latter was enfeoffed in the Manor of Toppesfield Hall upon the payment of 180 marks and the defeasance of a recognisance for £400 by John de Kyrkeby to the said William in 1343. William de Clopton, grandson of Sir William de Clopton, sold the manor to Thomas Bendish in 1470, but not before many valuable grants of various portions of it had been made by former holders to the use of the town. It will be noticed that the portraitures of several of the proprietors may be seen in the windows of Long Melford Church.

Pond Hall Manor, which was purchased by Helmyne Leget in 1360, was held by his daughter Ann and her husband, Edward Doyle, of Staffordshire. It is probable that the gateway of Place Farm was erected by their son John Doyle.

Some of the most interesting houses of the town are those which abutt upon the churchyard, they form part of the gift of the Cloptons to the use of the town. A first grant was made in 1417 by William Clopton and John Coleman, of Hadleigh, butcher, of a piece of ground near the churchyard. In the following year this grant was enlarged by the addition of a piece of land belonging to the manor of Toppesfield, known as "Cherchecroft," granted by Sir John Howard and Elizabeth his wife, late wife of Sir Walter Clopton. The market and fair, which belonged to the manor, were granted to the same feoffees for an annual rent of 6s. 8d., which was reduced in 1423 to 2s. yearly. Two houses stood upon this plot, which in extent measured 81 ft. by 42 ft.; in 1467 it was known as the "Market Ground." When William Clopton, son of

Walter, confirmed this grant in 1439, he reserved to his own use "a certain long house, called the Market House, with rooms underneath the same called 'The Alms-houses,'" then *newly constructed* alongside the church-yard, but in the same year he granted the "Long House" to the use of the town for the annual rent of a *red rose*. This rent of a "red rose" calls to memory later years when Sir William Clopton escaped execution on Tower Hill with his fellow countrymen and neighbours, who were supporters of the Lancastrian cause. In 1470, upon the appointment of new trustees, the Market House was called *The Cloth Hall*, the rooms under which were still used as Almshouses. From the tenour of the grant it is evident that the buildings had undergone alterations in order to convert them into use as "The Cloth Hall." In this year, 1470, the manor of Toppesfield was held by Thomas Bendish, armiger. William Pykenham is mentioned as one of the trustees. It can be seen by the reading of the various grants of town-lands and premises that the industry of cloth-making carried on in the town gradually developed till it reached its height of prosperity at the close of the 15th century. This prosperity may account for the many Guilds then in existence. The following extract from the appointment of new trustees, in 1498, shows the connection between the Guilds and the cloth trade at that period:—

" . . . . To William Pykenham, Archdeacon of Suffolk, Edward Doyle, senior, gentleman, Thomas Hobart, senior, Robert Martyn, senior, Robert Forthe son of William Forthe, Robert Forthe son of Robert Forthe, late of Hadleigh, John Martyn, Thos. Rotheman, Thos. Brownsmith, Wm. Gardener, senior, Nicholas Peyton, Wm. Markaunt, John Emeryngale, John Baredon, Edmund Gosnole, Wm. Blowboll, Wm. Wigenale, Wm. Clerk, Thos. Hynne, Wm. Mannok, Wm. Hammond, John Mervyn, Robert Clerk, and John Stratford, their heirs and assigns, all that piece of land lying in Hadleigh, anciently known as *le Cherche-croft*, now called *le Market grounde*, with all the buildings standing upon the same, and all the rents arising out of the said market ground. Also the market fairs which up to this time have been held there . . . . the said Market Ground abutting and extending up to and towards the long house, newly built and constructed thereon, called the *Guildhall*.



The Olde Guildhall  
Madleigh.

J. S. Gorder 28902.

And likewise extends towards two butchers' shops, and all the houses built thereon called *le Pristys Chambers*, and the houses called "*le clothehalle*," and the rooms beneath the same, and all the other houses called *le Wullehous*, and its offices . . . . ."

Many of the most wealthy townsmen, John Dobitt, William Danton, and others, settled in London, where they became citizens and members of the Clothmakers' Guild. It does not appear that the craft of Clothmaking was founded or greatly encouraged by the settlement of Flemings within the district. Mr. Edgar Powell has given, in *The East Anglia Rising, 1381*," an almost complete list of the inhabitants who were required to pay the poll-tax levied in that year. They numbered seven hundred and five grown-up persons, of whom about ten per cent. were engaged in the cloth trade, as merchants, weavers, dyers, fullers, and tailors. Few, if any, of these workmen bore names of Flemish origin. That this industry was mainly due to native genius and talent is further manifest by the names of the foreigners given in the Alien Subsidy Roll for 1485. Of the three hundred and eight foreigners then living in Suffolk only four resided in Hadleigh:—

Robert Stotard, chaplain, born at Cologne.

Antony Williamson, tailor, born in Scotland.

John a Dye, tailor, born "beyond the seas."

Antony Gylys, born at Magdeburg.

At Bildeston of the fourteen foreigners mentioned in the Rolls, thirteen, who were servants or workmen to John Stansby, clothmaker, were *Italians* by birth. The industry appears to have been on the decline after the serious riot in Suffolk, 1525, mentioned by Shakespeare (*Henry VIII.*, Act i., sc. 2). The imposition of the tax was ascribed to Cardinal Wolsey.

"These taxations

"The clothiers all, not able to maintain

"The many to them belonging, have put off,

"The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who,

"Unfit for other life, compelled by hunger

"And lack of other means, in desperate manner

"During the event to the teeth, are all in an uproar."